

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 COME-00

EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 SY-10 USSS-00 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01

/140 W

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O 252137Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1061

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 5858

J

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BL

SUBJ: ARREST OF ALLEGED SUBVERSIVES

REF: LA PAZ 5851

1. EMBASSY INFORMED BY RELIABLE MNR SOURCE THAT MNR LEADERSHIP TOGETHER WITH FSB LEADERSHIP AND ALL GOVERNMENT MINISTERS PRESENT IN LA PAZ WERE CALLED TO PALACE ON SUNDAY (PRESIDENT BANZER WAS OUT OF TOWN, IN THE PANDO AREA) AND TOLD BY MINISTRY INTERIOR THAT RAID ON ELN SAFEHOUSE ON FRIDAY LAST HAD PRODUCED LARGE QUANTITY OF SUBVERSIVE MATERIAL INCLUDING A LIST OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN A PLAN TO BEGIN WAVE OF AGITATION AND A GENERAL STRIKE. PERSONS ON THAT LIST WERE ARRESTED ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WISHED TO CONTINUE WAVE OF ARRESTS (OUR SOURCE QUOTED MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY FREDDY VARGAS AS SAYING HE WANTED TO PULL IN 500) BUT MNR OBJECTED VIGOROUSLY BECAUSE ARRESTS WOULD FALL MAINLY ON LABOR SECTOR. AS LABOR MINISTRY IS IN HANDS OF MNR, CONTINUED
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ARRESTS WOULD REDOUND TO DISADVANTAGE OF THAT PARTY.

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD BY TWO DIFFERENT SOURCES (PDC AND BARRIENTISTA) THAT NEITHER OF THE SO-CALLED BIG FISH CAUGH IN THE DRAGNET, NAMELY LABOR LEADERS PAZ SOLDAN AND LOPES ALTAMIRANO, ARE EXTREME LEFTISTS. THESE SOURCES CLAIM IT IS NOT UNLIKELY THAT EITHER WOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN SUBVERSIVE OR TERRORIST ACTIVITY, WITH OR WITHOUT THE ELN.

3. JAIME PONCE C. (FSB) SECRETARY GENERAL OF FPN, TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOB PROCEEDING WITH DETERMINATION TO PREVENT POLITICAL DISTURBANCES. HE EVIDENTLY PLEASED THAT GOB WILLING TAKE FORCEFUL AND EFFECTIVE STEPS TO STOP THE OPPOSITION, AND SHOWED NO CONCERN WHATEVER THAT THESE STEPS MIGHT HAVE BROADER CONSEQUENCES.

4. COMMENT. MNR HIERARCHY IS MEETING THIS AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS THIS WHOLE MATTER, AS WELL AS TO CONTINUE DEBATE BEGUN SUNDAY (AFTER THE MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR) ON THE ROLE OF THE MNR IN THE GOVERNMENT. HIGHLY PLACED MNR SOURCE INDICATED TO EMBASSY PRIOR TO THIS MEETING THAT PARTY DECISION WOULD FULLY SUPPORT STAND TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT. FURTHER HE INDICATED THAT MNR LEADERSHIP DETERMINED AT PRESENT TIME TO MAINTAIN FPN SCHEME OF GOVERNMENT.
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